



BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1966

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1966

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Belford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district during the year, 1966.

There are few changes in the vital statistics other than the customary year to year fluctuations, which are not significant.

The birth rate was slightly less than in 1965 and there was one infant death, whereas in the previous year there was none.

The overall death rate was also lower in 1966 than in the previous year and the established pattern for causes of death was followed. More than half the deaths were due to cardio vascular disease and vascular lesions of the central nervous system, and malignancy was the second largest group of causes.

Of the infectious diseases, there is little to report. There were 56 cases of measles which was a big increase upon the previous year and illustrates the well known two yearly cycle of this illness. There was a single case of pulmonary tuberculosis. This disease still smoulders on in small numbers, and although every precaution is taken in vigorously following up all contacts, it is likely to be some time before the disease is finally eradicated.

The immunisation and vaccination levels of the district are satisfactory. It is most important that these levels are maintained.

The Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, lists the sanitary circumstances of the district during the year.

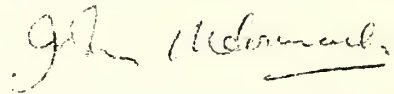
It is pleasing to note his favourable comments on the food hygiene standards in the district. There has been a very considerable improvement in the district within the last year or two and it is hoped that this good standard will be maintained.

Housing gives little cause for concern in the Belford Rural District. There is no slum problem and it may be stated that virtually all housing in the district is of a very good standard.

1966 was clouded by the death of Mr. Kirk, who had served the district for many years as Surveyor and Public Health Inspector. I would like here to add my tribute to the work that Mr. Kirk had done in the district. The rising standards of hygiene throughout the district were in no small measure, due to his efforts.

This will be my last Annual Report to the Council. I am leaving the district to take up another appointment, and I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for their interest and support during the whole time I have been here. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Belford Rural District Council staff for their helpful co-operation. It is now six years since I came to the district and I will be leaving with the very happiest memories.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. H. McDonald', with a horizontal line under the name.

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 39,797 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,141 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 23.

The rateable value was £165,555 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £643.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,820 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	26	26	52
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>54</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			11.20
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			13.55
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			3.70

Stillbirths

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			18.18
Total live and still births			55

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	18.51
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.23
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			18.51

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	-
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	18.18
--	-------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>30</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>64</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			13.27
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			10.74
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			8

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	7	10	17
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	5	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	1	4	5
Other Circulatory Disease	1	4	5
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	6	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
All Other Accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>30</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>64</u>

POPULATION, BIRTH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY

1918 - 1966

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate
1918	4,091	16.3	2	26.6
1919	4,318	15.11	4	58.8
1920	4,490	22.27	3	30.0
1921	4,940	16.15	6	75.0
1922	4,959	16.73	6	72.0
1923	4,950	15.55	4	51.0
1924	4,943	14.76	7	96.0
1925	4,909	14.87	5	68.0
1926	4,870	12.52	4	65.0
1927	4,755	14.3	5	73.0
1928	4,742	11.4	4	74.0
1929	4,809	12.7	5	82.0
1930	4,809	11.0	3	56.6
1931	4,433	14.4	5	78.0
1932	4,521	13.5	5	82.0
1933	4,438	12.6	2	35.7
1934	4,493	18.0	2	24.7
1935	4,555	13.8	4	63.5
1936	4,647	16.5	5	64.9
1937	4,675	16.7	4	51.0
1938	4,764	17.4	6	72.3
1939	5,127	11.4	4	71.0
1940	5,265	12.7	3	44.7
1941	5,379	14.7	6	76.0
1942	5,279	19.3	4	39.2
1943	Report missing	-	-	-
1944	4,972	-	-	-
1945	4,703	16.4	-	-
1946	4,884	20.6	6	59.4
1947	4,906	21.8	4	37.3
1948	4,904	15.2	1	13.3
1949	4,940	15.4	3	39.5
1950	5,099	16.2	3	36.0
1951	5,155	14.7	1	13.0
1952	5,022	15.7	1	12.6
1953	5,065	12.5	1	15.6
1954	5,030	14.0	-	-
1955	5,030	13.5	3	44.0
1956	5,030	11.1	2	35.0
1957	5,030	13.1	3	45.0
1958	5,010	13.57	1	14.70
1959	5,040	16.47	2	24.09
1960	5,050	17.44	-	-
1961	4,800	17.40	1	13.88
1962	4,790	14.03	2	34.48
1963	4,780	17.20	1	14.70
1964	4,780	13.66	1	18.51
1965	4,820	15.81	-	-
1966	4,820	13.55	1	18.51

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	56
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATIONNorth No. 1

Primary Immunisations								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4-7	8-16	Total	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	11	19	
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	129	165	16	1	4	2	317	-	7	177	15	26	12	237	
Diphtheria and Tetanus	-	-	-	2	2	7	11	-	-	51	9	283	35	378	
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
Total	129	165	16	3	6	13	332	-	7	228	24	317	61	637	

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONNorth No. 1

Number Vaccinated during Period					Number Re-vaccinated				
Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-15	Total
64	142	52	14	272	-	-	2	50	22

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONNorth No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

	<u>Number of Persons</u>
3 doses - Oral Vaccine	763
Booster dose oral	1,355

B.C.G. VACCINATIONSNorth No. 1

Berwick Borough	222
Belford R.D.	78
Glendale R.D.	63
Norham & Islandshires R.D.	-
Total	<u>363</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1966NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS & VISITSPUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Drainage.	65
W.C.'s.	10
Septic Tanks.	16
Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings.	2
Trade Refuse.	79
Dustbins.	4
Offensive accumulations.	3
Public Conveniences.	67
Water Supply and Water Samples.	46
Camping Sites.	78

HOUSING ACTS.

Repairs.	15
Demolition and Closing Sec. 16.	2
Improvement Grants.	40

FOOD & DRUGS.

Slaughterhouse - meat inspections.	154
Butchers Shops - " "	35
Food Premises - inspections.	96
- condemned food.	10
Ice-cream retailers.	2
Ice-cream Manufacturers.	4
Fish Merchants.	15
Dairies, Milk Dealers etc.	3

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories with mechanical power.	29
Factories without mechanical power.	18

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Inspection of dwelling houses.	10
Other premises.	4
Local Authority Premises.	20

MISCELLANEOUS.

Refuse Tips.	97
Sewage Works.	207
Sea Outfalls.	18

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company continue to maintain all the public supplies to the area satisfactorily so far as quantity is concerned.

The laying of a new 6" main feed to Beadnell from the Elford main has been temporarily halted at Annstead Bridge, due to the delay in the road widening scheme from Annstead to Beadnell. This delay is likely to be overcome in the early future and this supply together with the existing should prevent any complaint of shortage when the holiday development at Beadnell takes place.

The Belford supply has been the subject of some concern, due to its regular contamination and the difficulty of successful chlorination. At the end of the year the Council were considering the extension of the trunk main from Warenford to Belford in an endeavour to provide the village with a pure and wholesome supply.

Tabulated below is a statement of samples taken and results obtained of the public water supplies:-

Source	Total Samples taken	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. of unsatisfactory samples with faecal coli
Belford Village	13	9		4	2
Hospital Springs	13	11		2	1
Paddy's	12	11		1	1
Brockdam	12	11		1	
Banburgh	11	10		1	1
Total	61	52	-	9	5

So far as the private supplies are concerned, samples of water have been taken and the following results obtained. Where unsatisfactory samples are obtained the owners of the supply are advised to boil all water intended for drinking etc. before use, until a better result is obtained.

<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
39	19	4	2	14

SEWERAGE.

At the end of the year, work was about to commence on the provision of a comminutor at the outfall at Beadnell. This machinery should prevent any complaint of pollution of the foreshore.

The Council agreed during the year to a major scheme for the treatment of sewage at Bamburgh incorporating a Disintegrator Station on the Dunes and a Pumping Station at The Wynding. At the end of the year we await the Ministry of Housing and Local Government inquiry.

The works at Belford continue to operate satisfactorily and apart from one incident during the August flooding, the effluent discharged to the Burn was well within the Rivers Board requirements.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The service operated reasonably satisfactorily during the year. Apart from peak periods little overtime was necessary on the collection of house refuse.

Trade refuse continues to be collected but during the year the Council agreed to alter the charges from a fixed sum per premise to a sliding scale dependent upon the quantity of refuse to be collected and time spent on its collection. This system of charging would appear to be a fairer method in so far that those producing most refuse pay the most.

The move to Embleton Tip took place in December and as yet it is too early to accurately assess the difference this will make. The Council's agreement to purchase a new, larger vehicle will compensate this move but this will be offset against the trend of an increase in the bulk of the refuse. I would take this opportunity to thank Mr. Staig for his co-operation in this matter.

The Tip at Belford Moor has been reasonably well maintained during the year. The picture at Bamburgh was not so bright due to the action of vandals setting fire to the tip from time to time.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences have been well maintained during the year, with less damage by vandals than previously, except at the Broad Road Sea Shelter. Due to its isolation this convenience is used by hooligans from outside the district as a base of operation for vandalism, with consequent damage to the convenience.

CAMPING AND CARAVANS.

All the sites were well used by tourists and holiday makers and the proprietors maintained a high standard of cleanliness. It was necessary on one occasion to bring a site owner's attention to uncleanliness in sanitary accommodation but this apart, the co-operation between the site licencees and the Council has been of the highest order and I hope the co-operation and high standard will continue.

FOOD HYGIENE.

All food shops and catering establishments have been regularly inspected throughout the year. Most premises are of a high standard and leave little to be desired. The few remaining are improving and I hope for more improvements in that direction.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

All registered premises were inspected during the year and most complied with the requirements of the Act and Regulations made thereunder.

In the main, only minor legal infringements were found, these have all been remedied.

Below is a statement of visits made to premises to which the Act applies.

Class of Premise	No. Registered during year	Total Registered at year end	No. of Premises receiving general inspection during year
Offices	--	11	11
Retail Shops	2	37	37
Wholesale Shops	-	-	-
Catering Estab.	7	32	32
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-

Total no. of visits - 192

Total of Persons employed in premises to which the Act applies - 363

Total of Males " " " " " " " " - 83

Total of Females " " " " " " " " - 280

No. of premises for which exemption was sought during the year - 2

" " " " " " " granted " " " - 1

There were no prosecutions for offences under the Act.

Two accidents were reported during the year. One involved a bacon slicer, the other a fall from steps. No serious injury resulted from either accident.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were voluntarily surrendered and condemned for the reasons shown below:-

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight
Canned Meat	Tainted.	78 lbs.
Flour	Contamination by Flood Water.	24 lbs.
Sugar	"	1008 lbs.
Tea	"	6 lbs.
Assorted Biscuits	"	128 lbs.
Salt	"	36 lbs.
Jellies	"	8 lbs.
Cheese slices	"	36 pkts.
Assorted Cakes	"	8½ doz.
Breakfast Cereals	"	77 lbs.
Nescafe	"	9 lbs.
Lard	"	24 lbs.
Eggs	"	120 doz.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

All the premises to which the Regulations apply were subject to inspection during the year.

A high standard of hygiene has been kept and it is pleasing to note that the premises in general conform with the requirements.

Minor infringements were dealt with at the time of inspection and it has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings.

All catering establishments and hotels were carefully scrutinised during the summer season and even whilst working at full capacity the premises were maintained in the highest possible standard.

I look forward to a continuation of this standard of hygiene during the coming year.

Below is a table giving the breakdown of types of premises and the application of Regulations 16 and 19 to them.

Type of Premise	Number of Premises.	Number complying with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 applies.	Number complying with Reg. 19.
Butchers.	6	6	6	6
General Dealers.	21	21	19	19
Catering Establishments including Hotels.	24	24	24	24
Greengrocers.	4	3	4	4
Fish Shops.	3	3	3	3
Total	58	57	56	56

WATER SUPPLIES

Parishes		Adder- stone with Lucker	Bamb- urgh.	Bead- nell.	Belf- ord.	Easin- gton.	Ellin- ghan.	Middl- eton.	North Sund- erld.	Totals
Pop. 1961		303	558	586	1070	199	430	233	1625	5004
No. inhab- ited houses. (According to Census)		130 (103)	263 (216)	313 (242)	396 (360)	77 (71)	139 (122)	87 (83)	736 (607)	2141 (1804)
Public Supply	No. houses with piped supply in houses.	94	228	289	354	-	55 & 1 Brdg. School	-	724	1744
	No. houses with stand- pipe supply.	4	2	-	-	-	3	-	4	13
Private Supplies	No. houses with piped supply in houses.	26	31	24	42	76	78	87	8	372
	No. houses with stand- pipes.	6	2	-	-	1	3	-	-	12
No. houses with W.C.		108	260	313	390	70	129	86	736	2098
No. houses with bath.		108	256	307	368	70	116	86	702	2005

HOUSINGGENERAL.

Total number of inhabited houses in District.	2,141
New houses Local Authority.	4
New houses other Housing Authority.	-
New houses Private Persons.	19
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority.	373

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION.

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	-
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	-
3.	Houses closed not demolished (Section 16).	2
4.	Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings.	-

REPAIRS.Houses made Fit.

(a)	By informal action.	5
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice.	-
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners.	-

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.HOUSING ACT 1949 - HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959.

1.	<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>		
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year.	11	
(b)	Applications rejected.	-	
(c)	Applications approved.	11	
(d)	Approximate average grant approved per house.	£346	
(e)	Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme.	254	
2.	<u>Standard Grants.</u>		
		<u>During</u>	<u>Total to</u>
		<u>year.</u>	<u>date.</u>
(1)	Number of separate houses for which grants were made during year.	2	35
(2)	Number of houses so provided with		
	(a) Bath or shower.	2	29
	(b) Wash hand basin.	2	33
	(c) Hot water supply.	2	27
	(d) Water closet.	-	29
	(e) Food store.	2	28
(3)	Houses not included in above approved for grant under the Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Act 1946-54.	-	-

CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

Number of conversions to water closets.	-
Number of privy closets in use as at the end of the year.	43

POSITION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES.

Number of unfit houses in programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year.	2
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MEAT INSPECTION.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	132		1	623	56	
Number inspected.	132		1	623	56	
<u>All diseases</u> <u>except Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned.	1		1	3		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	46			87	5	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci.	35.6			14.4	8.9	
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.						
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.						
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	3					
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.						
Generalised and totally condemned.						

Total weight of meat condemned - 1,983 lbs.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS.

1. Number of properties in district.

2,569

104

2. (a) Total number of properties
(including nearby premises)
inspected following
notification.

235

5

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

76

5

(ii) Mice

3

-

3. (a) Total number of properties
inspected for rats and/or
mice for reasons other than
notification.

6

-

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

6

-

(ii) Mice

-

-

Type of Property	
Non- Agricultural	Agricultural
2,569	104
235	5
76	5
3	-
6	-
6	-
-	-

SEWERS.

4. There were no sewers infested by rats during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1961.Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	18		
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	22	25		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	4		
Total	28	47		

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	2	2			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S 3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective.					
(c) Not separate for sexes.					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					

